Claims 1 - 17 (canceled)

1    Claim 18 (currently amended):  A method of determining resource placement, comprising:

2          determining a set of business objectives ~~suitable~~ for assessing each of a plurality of

3    candidate locations for resource placement;

4          developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

5          performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives, thereby

6    determining what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;

7          developing cost factors for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate

8    locations;

9          using computer-readable program code executed by a computer to programmatically

10   compute a value for <u>placing the resources in</u> each of the candidate locations using the business

11   objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost

12   factors<u>, further comprising:</u>

13             <u>determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;</u>

14             <u>determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific</u>

15   <u>score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets</u>

16   <u>the second plurality of business objectives;</u>

17             <u>using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance</u>

18   <u>values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and</u>

19             <u>for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the</u>

20    developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location;

21           using computer-readable program code executed by the computer to programmatically

22    select a particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the

23    programmatically-computed ~~values~~ value for placing the resources in each of the candidate

24    locations; and

25           assigning the determined resources to the programmatically-selected particular

26    location.


1    Claim 19 (currently amended):  The method according to Claim 18, wherein programmatically

2    computing the value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations further

3    comprises estimating and accounting for any lag time characteristics discovered while

4    performing the value chain analyses.


1    Claim 20 (previously presented):  The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned

2    resources are information technology personnel.


1    Claim 21 (previously presented):  The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned

2    resources comprise monetary investments in the particular location.


Claims 22 - 27 (canceled)


1    Claim 28 (currently amended):  A system for assigning resources, comprising:

2          a computer comprising a processor;

3          a set of business objectives ~~suitable~~ for assessing each of a plurality of candidate

4     locations for resource placement;

5          one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

6          results of value chain analyses performed related to the set of business objectives, the

7     results usable for determining what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;

8          cost factors for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;

9          instructions which are executable on the computer, using the processor, to implement

10    functions comprising:

11               programmatically computing a value for placing the resources in each of the

12    candidate locations using the business objectives, according to the developed objective

13    measurements, and the developed cost factors, further comprising:

14                    determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business

15    objectives;

16                    determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-

17    specific score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location

18    meets the second plurality of business objectives;

19                         using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the

20    importance values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and

21                         for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and

22    the developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location;

23    and

24                using the programmatically-computed value to programmatically select a

25     particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the programmatically-

26     computed ~~values~~ <u>value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations</u>, thereby

27     enabling assignment of the determined resources for placement in the programmatically-

28     selected particular location.


Claims 29 - 32 (canceled)


1     Claim 33 (currently amended): The method according to Claim [[32]] <u>18</u>, wherein

2     programmatically selecting a particular location ~~based on the programmatically-computed~~

3     ~~values~~ further comprises selecting the <u>candidate</u> location for which [[the]] <u>a</u> cost of placing the

4     ~~resource~~ <u>resources</u> in the candidate location is lowest.


Claim 34 (canceled)


1     Claim 35 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[34]] <u>28</u>, wherein

2     programmatically selecting a particular location ~~based on the programmatically-computed~~

3     ~~values~~ further comprises selecting the <u>candidate</u> location for which [[the]] <u>a</u> cost of placing the

4     ~~resource~~ <u>resources</u> in the candidate location is lowest.


1     Claim 36 (currently amended): A computer program product for determining resource

2     placement, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-usable storage

3      media and comprising computer-usable program code for:

4            programmatically computing a value for placing resources in each of a plurality of

5      candidate locations using a set of business objectives ~~suitable~~ for assessing each of the plurality

6      of candidate locations for resource placement, according to one or more objective

7      measurements developed for each business objective, and cost factors developed for costs of

8      placing the resources in the candidate locations, the resources determined by performing value

9      chain analyses related to the set of business objectives to identify what resources will

10      potentially improve the analyzed value chain, further comprising:

11            determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;

12            determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific

13      score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets

14      the second plurality of business objectives;

15            using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance

16      values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and

17            for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the

18      developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location;

19      and

20            programmatically selecting a particular location from among the candidate locations,

21      based on the programmatically-computed ~~values~~ value for placing the resources in each of the

22      candidate locations, for assigning the determined resources.


Claim 37 (canceled)

1     Claim 38 (currently amended):  The computer program product according to Claim [[37]] 36,

2     wherein programmatically selecting a particular location based on the programmatically

3     computed values further comprises selecting the candidate location for which [[the]] a cost of

4     placing the resource resources in the candidate location is lowest.